The Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) to aid teachers and students in keeping abreast of geography behind current news events.

GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS

of

The National Geographic Society

WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

The National Geographic Society is a non-profit educational and scientific Society established for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.

VOLUME XXVIII October 24, 1949 NUMBER 4

1. Radio Voice Heralds Virgin Islands Advance
2. U. S. Consul Leaves Urumchi, Sinkiang
3. Mohawk Valley Marks 200 Years of History
4. Soccer Rates High as Favorite Sport
5. War and Weather Make Capitals Wander

EXPLORATION P. S.

BUSINESS IS BRISK IN CHARLOTTE AMALIE'S ROVING FISH MARKET

Attracted by the rainbow hues of such gay-scaled fish as the red snapper and the blue bonito, island women select the mainstay of their day's meal from the boxes hung across the donkey's back. With no refrigeration and a blazing tropical sun, this vendor must sell his wares in short order in the streets of Charlotte Amalie, metropolis of the Virgin Islands (Bulletin No. 1).

Bulletin No. 1, October 24, 1949

Radio Voice Heralds Virgin Islands Advance

ANNOUNCEMENT that the Virgin Islands of the United States will soon inaugurate their first radio station highlights efforts now being made to raise the living standard of the islanders. Of all the United States possessions, Uncle Sam's Caribbean outpost is the only one without a voice on the air.

In 1945, Congress authorized a five-year, $10,000,000 public works program for the islands. Backed by this appropriation, some developments are nearly completed. Others are still in the planning stage.

Planes Stop at Former Pirate Haven

Improvements range from rain catchment basins built to increase the local water supply to construction of new public buildings, including schools and hospitals.

Much of the work is being done at Charlotte Amalie (illustration, cover). This capital city of the American Virgins is the only town on the island of St. Thomas. One big undertaking is the improvement of the broad horseshoe-shaped harbor. This hill-rimmed anchorage was famous as a lair for 17th-century buccaneers. Today it is an important port of call for United States and European ships bound for the Panama Canal, a thousand miles to the southwest. Planes stop at Charlotte Amalie on flights between continental United States and South America.

Less than three miles east of St. Thomas, across Pillsbury Sound, lies St. John. On this sprawling, maple-leaf-shaped island, fishing, charcoal burning, and bay leaf gathering are the chief occupations. There are no towns. The first cross-island highway is under construction. A few years ago this almost deserted isle, whose wild tropical growth conceals the ruins of old sugar estates, lacked even a wagon road.

Best Harbor Has Little Traffic

On its 19 square miles are several small settlements, mere clusters of dwellings. Cruz Bay, at the island's western tip, is the government seat. St. John is administered jointly with St. Thomas and the commissioner's house stands on a little point of land extending into the bay. Under the palm trees that shade the beach rise the dozen or so cottages of the hamlet. A motor launch makes regular trips to St. John from the nearest point on St. Thomas. It stops at Cruz Bay and Caneel Bay.

Curving points of land at the eastern end of St. John enclose Coral Bay, best harbor in the islands. Its only commerce is carried on by fishing boats and small local craft that sail into its deep, sheltered waters. An old Moravian mission and a few houses and cabins rise among the trees.

Some attempt has been made to attract tourists to St. John. The island boasts a small resort at Caneel Bay, around the corner from Cruz Bay. There, in a typical tropical setting, are several cottages, widely separated to give an illusion of remoteness and privacy. With modern improve-

ENTERED AS SECOND CLASS MATTER APRIL 27, 1943, POST OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C., UNDER ACT OF MARCH 3, 1879.
COPYRIGHT, 1949, BY THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY. INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT SECURED. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
SUBSCRIPTION TWENTY-FIVE CENTS FOR THIRTY WEEKLY ISSUES DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR. IN CANADA, FIFTY CENTS.

UMI

B. ANTHONY STEWART

THROUGH LITTLE FALLS GORGE, ALONG WITH THE MOHAWK, TWO RAILWAYS, TWO HIGHWAYS, AND A CANAL MAKE THEIR WAY

The city of Little Falls steps down the slopes on each side of the Mohawk. The factories on the riverbank (center) produce bicycles, bookcases, and breakfast foods, to mention only a few of their wares. Here the Barge Canal (enlarged modern edition of the historic Erie Canal) parallels the river, skirting the cataract that gives the town its name and runs its factories. Around the bend beyond the canal lock the valley broadens. A century and a half ago pioneers from New England poured west through the Mohawk Valley (Bulletin No. 3). This gash between the Adirondacks and the Alleghenies is today one of the nation's most productive regions, with thousands of factories turning out such everyday necessities as teakettles, silver plate, bacon, electrical equipment, furniture, and locomotives.

U. S. Consul Leaves Urumchi, Sinkiang

THE dusty and ancient crossroads center of Urumchi, where the United States is closing its lone consular listening post in Asia's heartland, has watched the tides of desert commerce and conquest ebb and flow for centuries.

The remote city's continuing importance in world affairs stems in great part from the fact that it dominates the two major overland trade routes which link the China coast areas with the Middle East, the vast subcontinent of India, and the Asiatic reaches of Soviet Russia. Camel-mounted travelers, merchants, and armies have been using the routes since time out of mind.

Un-Chinese in Character

Tradition has it that imagination-exciting personages—both historic and legendary—passed this way. Among them were the storied Prester John, Genghis Khan of dread fame, and adventurous members of the Polo family from Venice.

Also known by the names Tihwa and Hsin-chiang Sheng, Urumchi today is the capital of China's far-western province of Sinkiang, yet it is quite un-Chinese in character.

Chinese account for only about six per cent of the estimated 100,000 population, and are usually traders or government officials. The majority of the city's inhabitants are Turkis and Mongols. Minority groups include Russians, seminomadic Torguts, Chahars, and Kazakhs.

For many years the city's economy depended on its importance as a trading center for furs and skins, but recent developments have brought signs of industrial activity. Urumchi now has leather tanneries, flour mills, small automotive repair shops, and a textile mill. Further impetus may come from exploitation of the mineral deposits and oil reported discovered in the vicinity.

Shortest Link Between Travel Routes

The city lies between the lofty Tien Shan (heavenly mountains) and their easterly extension—the snow-capped Bogdo Ula, or holy mountains. The Great North Road of overland trade goes directly through its streets, and a pass between the two ranges links both this artery and the town with the Great South Road.

Urumchi's proximity to this defile is the key to the town's long influence in the government, trade, and strategy of Sinkiang Province. The pass is less than 4,000 feet high between mountain ranges reaching above 14,000 feet. It is the shortest link between the two big travel routes, and the only one that remains open the year round. Because of it, Urumchi controls both highways.

The rigors of travel and vast distances have always combined to keep this capital of High Tartary remote from the eastern China familiar to tourists. The route to Peiping, for example, covers 2,300 miles, or more than the distance from New York to Salt Lake City. And the disrupted

UMI

ments and service, they are available to visitors for week ends or a period between cruise-boat stops. They supply the dreamer of South Sea Isle glamour with a reasonable facsimile of life on a desert island.

Forty miles to the south, on St. Croix, largest island in the group, farmers are being encouraged to improve and conserve the soil. An attempt is being made to grow more varied crops. Tomatoes have been raised successfully, in quantities large enough to sell to mainland canneries.

To encourage advancement of the islands, Congress recently granted a charter to the Virgin Island Company. This firm was founded in 1934 under an island law. The new organization will continue most of the old firm's activities—chiefly sugar growing—but is also to enter new fields. Projects will include fruit growing, truck farming, poultry and livestock raising, and development of marketing facilities.

If the islands are to develop fully, more industries must be built up and money brought in. Progress along these lines has already begun. A milk-pasteurizing plant now operates at Charlotte Amalie. New hotels and shops have been established by Americans from the mainland. The first radio station is to be built with private funds.

NOTE: The Virgin Islands are shown on the National Geographic Society's Map, Countries of the Caribbean. Write the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C., for a price list of maps.

See also, "*Carib* Cruises the West Indies," in the *National Geographic Magazine*, January, 1948; and "The American Virgins," September, 1940*; and, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, March 24, 1947, "Caribbean Isles View Peacetime Maneuvers"; and "Virgin Islands Progress from Pirates to Planned Economy," March 4, 1946. (*Issues marked with an asterisk are included in a special list of Magazines available to teachers in packets of ten for $1.00.*).

BLUEBEARD'S CASTLE HOTEL OVERLOOKS CHARLOTTE AMALIE HARBOR FROM THE CREST OF A HILL

Legend casts the glamour of buccaneer days over this stone tower, nucleus of a modern hotel. Any connection it had with pirates is pure fiction. Its original use was as practical as its modern one. It was built as an auxiliary watch tower to the harbor fort by resident Danes, not roving buccaneers.

Bulletin No. 3, October 24, 1949

Mohawk Valley Marks 200 Years of History

IN THE watershed of New York's 160-mile Mohawk River, northwest of Albany, lie such busy manufacturing cities as Rome, Utica, Little Falls (illustration, inside cover), Ilion, Herkimer, Canajoharie, Johnstown, Gloversville, Amsterdam, Scotia, and Schenectady. The great industrial valley in which they cluster seems far removed from the days of the French and Indian Wars and the American Revolution.

But exactly 200 years ago Sir William Johnson, Britain's outstanding diplomat in dealing with the Indians, was building Fort Johnson as a protection for the valley's pioneer settlers. This two-story stone structure standing on the north bank of the river, at the western edge of what became the city of Amsterdam, is now a museum of Mohawk Valley history. Although intended as a residence, the building was called "fort" after a palisade was raised around it during the French and Indian Wars.

Glove Industry Had Colonial Start

Fort Johnson was the scene of many councils with the Indians in the stirring pre-Revolutionary years. War drums echoed loudly along the Mohawk from the time of the fort's construction until 1781, when one of the last battles of the Revolution was fought at near-by Johnstown.

This historic city, in the practical present, is a glove-making center (illustration, next page). The industry, important also at Gloversville, was established by a group of Scottish glove-makers whom Sir William Johnson brought over from Perthshire. The town grew up around Johnson Hall, Sir William's later home, built in 1762.

Coming to America in 1737 to manage a wealthy uncle's land on the south bank of the Mohawk, Johnson, an Irishman, quickly showed his talent for dealing with the Indians. In 1744 he became superintendent of the affairs of the Six Nations (the Iroquois Confederacy). Twelve years later he was managing Indian affairs for most of British North America.

Through numerous crises, Sir William kept the Iroquois generally friendly to the British as long as he lived. He received the title "Sir" for his part in military successes during the French and Indian Wars at Crown Point on Lake George, Fort Niagara, and Montreal.

In Johnstown many legends of Sir William persist. In 1774, on the lawn of Johnson Hall, he collapsed and died at the end of a long and earnest appeal to the Indians of the Mohawk tribe.

Amsterdam today is famed for its carpets. Manufacture of these has been the city's most important industry for more than a hundred years. It also has a hand in glove-making. In addition to Fort Johnson, the city boasts another colonial home—Guy Park. Sir William Johnson built this mansion in 1766 for his daughter Mary and her husband—his nephew, Colonel Guy Johnson.

Fifty-seven miles west of Johnstown, where the Mohawk bends at a right angle to flow east, Fort Stanwix once stood. Today, Rome, "the copper city," thrives at this western end of the valley. Modern Romans,

UMI

condition of China today imposes added difficulties on overland communications with the old caravan post of the western hinterlands.

A hundred miles southeast of Urumchi the Turfan Depression falls away to a corrected depth of 505 feet below sea level. Thirty-five miles from this basin a mountain rises 14,140 feet above sea level.

NOTE: Urumchi may be located on the Society's map of China.

For additional information, see "With the Nomads of Central Asia," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for January, 1936; "From the Mediterranean to the Yellow Sea by Motor," November, 1932; "First Over the Roof of the World by Motor," March, 1932; and "On the World's Highest Plateaus," March, 1931.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, December 1, 1947, "Sinkiang Squeezes Last Drop from Streams"; "Sinkiang Is Mid-Asian Land of Mountains, Deserts, and Oases," November 26, 1945; and "Reclaimed Sinkiang Is China's Wild West," December 13, 1943.

CITROEN-HAARDT EXPEDITION

AN OCCIDENTAL VISITOR PLAYS IN THE SNOW WITH HIS DOG IN URUMCHI

Before them are two yurts, widely used in Sinkiang as living quarters. They are usually made of skins tied over a framework by animal-hair rope. Being the capital and trade center of this central Asian area, Urumchi also has many permanent structures such as those seen in the background. Winter snow is not unusual, since Urumchi is in the same latitude as Minneapolis.

New Altitude Record Set in Cosmic Ray Research

The National Geographic Society announced that a new altitude record in cosmic ray research was made on October 4 when a team of instrument-carrying free balloons reached 136,000 feet over Swarthmore, Pennsylvania.

The previous record was 128,000 feet, set in August, 1947, also over Swarthmore. The new height of almost 26 miles was reached during a research program flight supervised by Dr. Martin A. Pomerantz of the Bartol Research Foundation of the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia.

The flight's purpose was to recheck existing readings on cosmic ray intensity over eastern Pennsylvania for comparison with data obtained in month-long observations over Churchill on Hudson Bay in Canada. Dr. Pomerantz returned only recently from that expedition, which was sponsored jointly by the National Geographic Society and the Bartol Foundation. Flights in these Canadian experiments during August averaged 20 miles in altitude.

Soccer Rates High as Favorite Sport

WHAT'S the most universal game?

In the fall season it would seem that no sport could exceed the fervor and intensity of football. But even in its own country American football is eclipsed by baseball and basketball. Outside the United States all three take a back seat far behind soccer.

Referee Lives in Danger

In the British Isles, Italy, Uruguay, and about 50 other countries from arctic Spitzbergen to Australia, soccer is the national game. It comes closer than any other sport to being the universal game (illustration, next page). Some foreign soccer teams toured the United States last summer, demonstrating their brand of play. Only the goalie can touch the ball with his hands or arms; others propel it with their feet, legs, head, or shoulders.

So popular is soccer in many parts of the world that it often stirs spectators to a state of near-hysteria. In Buenos Aires, Argentina, referees sometimes are hustled from the stadium under protective guard lest they be manhandled by partisans of the losing team. Enthusiasm in Italy equals, if not surpasses, that of the World Series, or a traditional college football rivalry.

Soccer, granddaddy of all forms of football known today, got its start by strange happenstance in 11th-century Britain. English workers, digging at an old battle site after the Danes vacated the country in 1042, found a skull presumably belonging to one of their former enemies. Still bitter with memories of the Danish occupation, the diggers began kicking the skull back and forth among themselves.

The idea caught on among a group of boys watching the workmen. The lads found that an inflated cow bladder worked better than a skull, and the game was born.

In one of its earliest forms soccer was played between adjacent English communities. Teams, often numbering several hundred players each, would meet midway between two towns and attempt to kick the bladder back to the rival's community.

"Soccer" Is Short for "Association"

Soccer was known merely as "football" in England until the latter part of the 19th century. An "unsportsmanlike" run with the ball in 1823 by a Rugby College student accidentally produced a new form of the sport. Running with the ball soon won recognition and demanded distinction from the original game.

As a result, the variety restricted to ball-kicking took the name of "Association," which was later abbreviated to "Assoc" and then to "soccer." Rugby College gave its name to the newer form. Americans, blending the two games, came up with tackle football.

Professional and amateur teams abound in countries where soccer is a national pastime. In England, for instance, there are 88 teams partici-

UMI

who manufacture pots and pans, screens and cables, claim that over Fort Stanwix the Stars and Stripes first flew in battle.

Utica, largest of the valley cities (more than 100,000), grew up on the site of Fort Schuyler. Its location at the only ford for miles along the Mohawk brought it rapid growth as a transportation center. Its name, which was picked out of a hat, figures prominently on household linen shelves as the label of the sheets and pillowcases made there.

Schenectady, eastern gate to the valley, is the site of the great General Electric plant. Names of other valley cities team up with the products they make—Canajoharie, canned foods; Ilion, guns and typewriters (the Remingtons pioneered there); and Herkimer, "American" cheese.

In this pleasant green valley of bustling factory towns, market gardens, and dairy farms, live half a million people, more than the population of Vermont and New Hampshire combined.

NOTE: The towns of the Mohawk Valley may be located on the Society's map of the Northeastern United States.

See also, "Drums to Dynamos on the Mohawk," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for July, 1947; and "New York—An Empire Within a Republic," November, 1933.

B. ANTHONY STEWART

IN MOHAWK MILLS, SKILLED HANDS MAKE COVERINGS FOR MILLIONS OF OTHER HANDS

Glove-makers of the Mohawk Valley carry on a craft established there in colonial times. The artisan fitting the glove on a form has made gloves for this same firm in Johnstown during his entire working life of more than 65 years.

War and Weather Make Capitals Wander

MOVE the capital from Washington? Preposterous, you may say. The idea, however, was a hardy perennial long before the atomic age.

A congressional majority favored it after the War of 1812, but agreement was lacking on where to go. A strong bid for removal to St. Louis fell short after the Civil War. A current resolution calls for congressional study of alternatives—shifting to a far-inland site, systematically decentralizing, or establishing a No. 2 capital in the west.

South Africa Has Two

Come what may, fact-finders will uncover plenty of precedent in other lands for dual capitals and capital shifts. Wars and climate stand out among factors that affect otherwise stable government seats.

The Union of South Africa is a land of two languages, two flags, two anthems, and two capitals—Capetown, lawmaking center, and Pretoria, administrative seat. When its parliament convenes annually in Capetown, the governor general and numerous officials travel the thousand miles from Pretoria for the session (map, next page).

They return to Pretoria months later at parliament's close. Because the twice-a-year shift is expensive, Bloemfontein, centrally located and already the union's judiciary center, has been urged as a logical home for all government branches.

Maps of Europe show the Netherlands with two capitals—Amsterdam and The Hague. The Dutch Parliament meets at The Hague, where the queen has her official residence. To Netherlanders, however, The Hague is the seat of government and Amsterdam is the capital.

In Bolivia, Sucre, site of the federal courts, is legally the national capital. La Paz, lofty metropolis of 300,000 people, is the actual government seat.

Several Make Seasonal Shifts

In oil-rich Saudi Arabia, the dual character of Ibn Saud's reign as "King of the Hejaz and of Nejd and its Dependencies" is preserved with capitals at both Mecca and Riyadh.

Calcutta was India's capital from 1857, when Victoria was proclaimed empress, until New Delhi was built in King George V's day. The relief New Delhi offered from Calcutta's humid summer heat was not enough for Indian lawmakers, however. So, at Simla in the Himalaya foothills a summertime capital was built.

North of New Delhi and Simla, the Himalayan twin state of Jammu and Kashmir hangs in the balance between Hindu India and Moslem Pakistan. American Admiral Chester W. Nimitz is United Nations officer charged with directing a plebiscite on the issue. The state's government functions most of the year at Srinagar in the high and storied Vale of Kashmir. In winter only, the maharajah governs from the lower, warmer town of Jammu.

Summer heat and wartime bombings drove the Philippine government

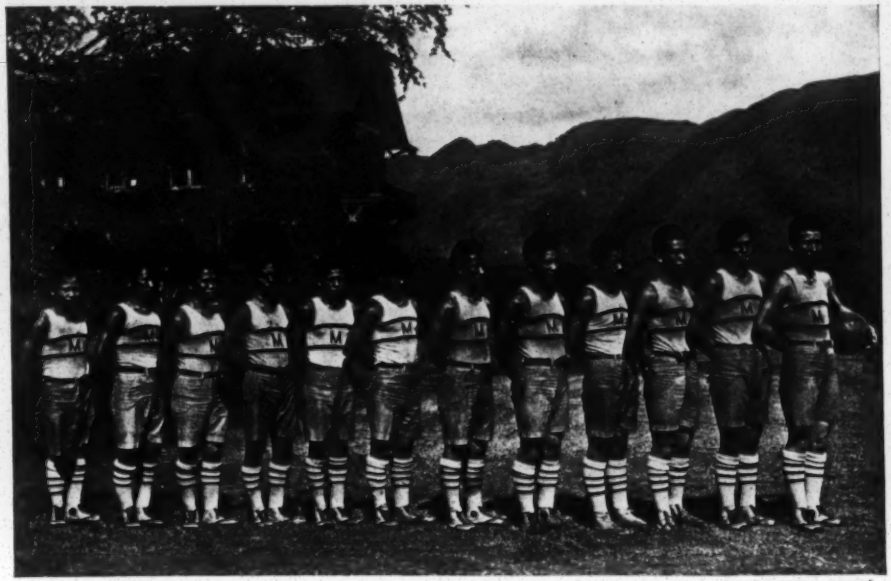
UMI

pating in major play. Attendance at play-offs and finals there sometimes reaches 150,000, dwarfing the crowds that turn out for America's major football games.

The game has attained only a limited popularity in the United States, however. Fall River, Massachusetts, Philadelphia, and St. Louis are its main strongholds.

NOTE: For further material on games and sports, see "Pigeon Netting—Sport of Basques," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for September, 1949; "Around the 'Great Lakes of the South'," April, 1948; "Life with an Indian Prince," February, 1942; "New England Ski Trails," November, 1936; and "When Czechoslovakia Puts a Falcon Feather in Its Cap," January, 1933.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, November 22, 1948, "Football's Fall Spectacle Once Spring Sport"; "English 'Austerity' Discourages Falconry," April 12, 1948; "Czechoslovakia Plans Sokol Games in June," March 22, 1948; and "Utah's Salt-Bed Speedway Once Was Lake," October 13, 1947.



ROBERT K. BONINÉ

HONOLULU'S MID-PACIFIC INSTITUTE PRESENTS AN ALL-POLYNESIAN LINE-UP

Geographic Oddities and Briefs

Alaska was purchased by the United States from Russia in 1867 for $7,200,000—about two cents an acre. It has so far yielded two-thirds of a billion dollars worth of gold and another one-fourth billion in copper, silver, platinum, tungsten, lead, tin, and other metals.

The bulbous onion and its numerous relatives—garlic, leek, chive, etc.—belong to the Lily family.

The 215 square miles of tropical Guam offer a rich field for the archeologist. The little island is dotted with prehistoric stone burial sites, most of which remain untouched. No one yet knows the age or significance of these mysterious markers.

Normandy, the historic region of northwest France between Picardy and Brittany, owes its name to the Northmen who settled in northern France during the 9th century. The area today is devoted to agriculture and stock-raising.

from Manila to Baguio in the northern Luzon mountains. Quezon City, fledgling capital of the new Philippine Republic, lies in the hills close to Manila and eliminates the need for a summer shift to Baguio. It is being patterned along the lines of Australia's Canberra.

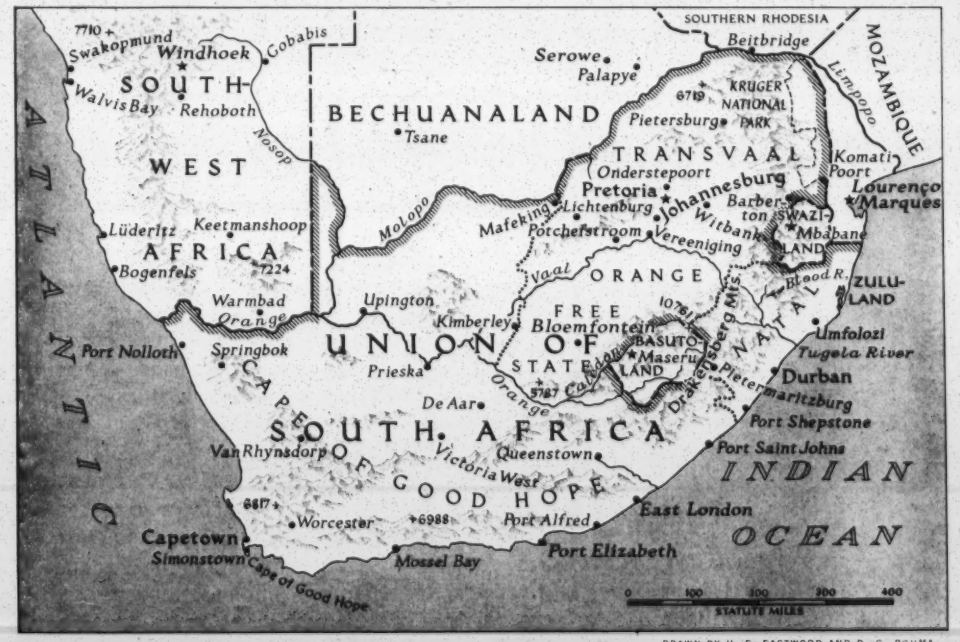
After the Australian Commonwealth was formed, January 1, 1901, Sydney and Melbourne vied for honors as its capital. The early parliaments met at Melbourne. Then Canberra was laid out, a capital city completely pre-planned by a Chicago architect mindful of Major L'Enfant's Washington achievement. Great Britain's present king, Duke of York at the time, opened the first parliament at Canberra in 1927.

Nanking is another example of extensive capital-city planning and ill-starred China is outstanding among the many nations whose governments have been forced into one or more wartime moves.

The young Chinese Republic voluntarily moved its government from Peking (meaning northern capital) to Nanking (southern capital) in 1928. Peking's name was changed to Peiping, meaning northern plain.

Under Japanese pressure, China's government moved 300 miles from Nanking to Hankow late in 1937, and 1,000 miles farther up the Yangtze to Chungking in mid-1938. It was back at Nanking by 1946. Under Chinese communist pressure, it took off for Canton early in 1949.

NOTE: Various capitals of the world's nations, past and present, may be located on the Society's World Map.



DRAWN BY H. E. EASTWOOD AND D. G. BOUMA

BETWEEN PRETORIA, ADMINISTRATIVE CAPITAL, AND CAPETOWN, LAWMAKING SEAT, SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS TRAVEL 1,000 MILES

Because the semiannual trip adds to the expense of governing the Union of South Africa, in-between Bloemfontein has been suggested as a site for a "complete" capital. Bloemfontein already is the union's judiciary center and capital of the Orange Free State, one of the four provinces comprising the dominion.